

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
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R 190415Z MAY 78
FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 458
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
USLO PEKING
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE
CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L HONG KONG 6337

NOFORN

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, CH, VM, UR
SUBJECT: PRC CADRE COMMENTS ON PRC BORDER PROBLEMS WITH USSR AND
SRV

REF: HONG KONG 5574 (NOTAL)

1. IN A MAY 17 DISCUSSION OF CHINESE/VIETNAMESE DIFFERENCES
OVER ETHNIC CHINESE IN VIETNAM, THE CHIEF REPORTER OF THE
HONG KONG BRANCH OF NCNA SZETO KEUNG CLAIMED THESE
DIFFICULTIES BEGAN IN EARLY 1977 WHEN THE VIETNAMESE STARTED
PUSHING CHINESE GROUPS LIVING IN THE BORDER AREAS INTO THE
PRC. SINCE THEN, OVER 40,000 CHINESE, MOSTLY FROM THE
NORTH BUT SOME FROM THE SOUTH, HAVE ENTERED THE PRC. HE
SAID THE PROBLEM CAME TO A HEAD IN RECENT MONTHS WHEN THE
VIETNAMESE STEPPED UP THEIR PRESSURES THUS FORCING OVERSEAS
CHINESE AFFAIRS DIRECTOR LIAO CHENG-CHIH TO COMMENT
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PUBLICLY ON THE PROBLEM (REFTEL). SZETO DESCRIBED
VIETNAMESE COMPLAINTS OF CHINESE ILLEGALLY
CROSSING THE BORDERS AS COMPLETELY FALSE SINCE, IN FACT,
THE VIETNAMESE WERE FORCING THE CHINESE INTO CHINA.
HE REJECTED THE SRV EXPLANATION THAT THE RECENT
ECONOMIC MOVES IN VIETNAMESE WERE AIMED SOLELY AT
ELIMINATING BOURGEOIS TRADE SINCE MANY ORDINARY

CHINESE WORKERS WERE ALSO SUBJECTED TO VIETNAMESE PRESSURES. HE SAID THAT MANY CHINESE WERE PLACED IN NW ECONOMIC ZONES NEAR THE BORDER WITH THE APPARENT HOPE THAT THEY WOULD CROSS OVER. HE COMPLAINED BITTERLY THAT THE VIETNAMESE TREATED THE CHINESE HARSHLY SINCE THEY NOT ONLY FORCED THEM TO FLEE BUT CONFISCATED ALL THEIR BELONGINGS INCLUDING THEIR LUGGAGE AT THE BORDER CROSSING.
SHOESMITH

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